Report, General Education Committee, 2016-2017

Members: Kristen Ashworth, Lindsay Barnett, Lisa Covert, Renling Jin, Shawn Morrison (Chair), Gia Quesada, Nathaniel Walker

The General Education Committee completed the recertification process for courses to be added or deleted from the General Education program. We announced two deadlines, one in fall and one in spring, for programs to send in additions or deletions to the General Education Program to begin Fall 2017 and last for three years. We received over 100 proposals; we processed all of them and approved 97 for addition to the program and 3 for deletion from the program. In the senate meeting of February, 2017, we presented the proposals and asked the senate to approve. The senate approved the proposals as submitted, but rejected the three-year freeze. That means that, moving forward, any course can be added or deleted, to begin in the next catalogue year. The General Education committee will send out information each fall on the two deadlines that year for programs to submit proposals for the next year. In the April senate meeting, Lynne Ford, Associate Provost for First Year Experience, proposed a plan for how to manage these changes: every course that is approved each year for General Education status will count for the students coming in that next year and all students who are already here; any course that has been deleted for a calendar year will no longer count as a General Education course, beginning for students who come in that year, but will continue to count for students who were already here when it was a General Education course. All students will be held accountable for the information in their Degree Audit, which is tied to the catalogue year in which they entered the college. The Senate endorsed this plan.

The committee completed the plan for the pre/post test for students in the Foreign Language Alternative Program to take. It will be on Oaks; they will take the pre test when they are approved for the program. They will take the post test upon completion of their last course that counts for the program. Students will not be cleared to graduate unless they have completed the post test. This pre/post test will be placed on Oaks in summer 2017 and students entering the program in Fall 2017 will take the pre test.

The committee finalized the plan for the Math Alternative Program. Programs will submit applications for courses that will meet one of the Student Learning Outcomes for the Math Alternative; the General Education committee will consider the proposals, along with representatives from the math and philosophy departments. The applications will include the justification and the signature assignment that will assess the SLO that has been identified. This process will begin in fall 2017.